THE MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C.P. THAKUR) (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Repair of Dhodar Ali Road in Assam

1610. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned by NEC to rebuild and repair the Dhodar Ali Road in Assam;

(b) whether the rebuilding and repairing work would be completed in the current financial year; and

(c) whether the National Development Council has decided to convert the Dhodar Ali Road into a National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) NEC have sanctioned Rs. 7.7 crores to date, for the purpose.

(b) The road portion of the work is likely to be completed within the Financial year 2002-03. The bridge portion is in progress and is proposed to be completed by 2003-04.

(c) The National Development Council does not administer the subject matter. This subject is dealt by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and they have advised that presently, there is a ban on declaration of new National Highways, due to fund constraints.

Assent of Parliament before disinvestment of HPCL and BPCL

1611. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to disinvest Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd;

(b) if so, the proposed modalities of disinvestment in selling shares;

(c) whether Government would offer the shares to ONGC and IOC, if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that above disinvestment proposal is controversial to Government's announcement the Parliament; and

(e) Whether any notification under section 620 of the Companies Act was issued at the time of nationalisation of companies and whether the assent of Parlament is required before disinvestment?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has decided to disinvest 35.2% of equity shares of BPCL through offer for sale to public in the domestic and international market (including ADR/GDR) etc. in one tranche and 34.01% of the equity shares of HPCL through strategic sale. In addtion, 5% shares in HPCL and BPCl are to be offered to the employees through Employees Share Purchase Scheme (ESPS).

(c) No, Sir. It is the policy decision of the Government that Central Public Sector Undertakings and Cenral Governmetn owned Cooperative Societies , (i.e. where Government's ownership is 51% or more), are not permitted to participate in the disinvestment of other PSUs as bidders.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Notifications under ESSO (Acquisition of Undertakings in India) Act, 1974, Caltex (Acquisition of Shares of Caltex Oil Refining (India) Ltd. and of the undertakings in India of Caltex (India) Ltd.) Act, 1977 and Burmah Shell (Acquisition of Undertakings in India) Act, 1976 were issued by the Government of India. Parliamentary Legislation or Parliamentary sanction or approval is not necessary to effectuate the in principle' policy decision of disinvestment in HPCL and BPCL. It is open to Government of India in bona-fide exercise of its executive power.

Legal opinion for resale of Centaur Hotel, Mumbai

1612. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had sought for legal opinion regarding the resale of Centaur Hotel, Mumbai Airport from Attorney General and other Government authorised solicitors;